



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Finance Committee Minutes 01-24-2001

7:30 PM O'Neill Room Community Safety Building

1/24/01

ATTENDEES:

Phelps* Feinleib Kocur O'Neill Mahoney
 DeCoursey* Villandry Simmons* Mazmanian*
 Tosti* Foscett* Deyst Ronan*
 Scoppettuolo* Franclemont Olsen*
 DuBois* Howard* Fanning Tosi* Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Selectman Charlie Lyons

MINUTES of 1/10/01 approved as printed.

MINUTEMAN TECH: Phelps summarized the Minuteman School Committee's proposal for assessing the cost to members for FY02. The proposal is to allow each district member to pay its share based either on the regional agreement or the education reform bill, whichever is less. If this leaves the budget underfunded, the remainder of the cost would be apportioned according to the number of students that town is currently sending (i.e. the regional agreement).

She said this would have cost Arlington \$100k had it been in place this year. Phelps provided a letter from Arlington's member of the Minuteman School Committee, Paul Schlichtman, urging support for this measure. Lyons also urged support of this measure.

All gave as the main reason that the School Committee views this as a compromise approach so that Arlington's support would win us credibility. With this divisive issue behind us, we might be able to address the problem of finding a way to make the school continue to be viable. Lyons thinks the best approach would be to convince Cambridge and other communities with students interested in vocational education to abandon their small programs and join Minuteman.

Olsen suggested that our first concern should be the excessive per-pupil cost to Arlington at Minuteman, which has not improved so far despite all the efforts. Tosti noted that if Arlington's enrollment continues to increase (+12% this year), the difference between that two approaches will shrink.

VOTED: To recommend that the Selectmen support the Minuteman School Committee's assessment proposal for one year. 9 to 1.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

The meeting scheduled for 1/31 is canceled.. The next meeting will be 2/5 [which was subsequently canceled because of snow]. Meetings are also scheduled for Feb 7, 14, 21, 26, 28; March 5, 7, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28; and April 9, 11 -- all in the Bob O'Neill Room at the Community Safety Bldg.

Source: Peter Howard, FinCom secretary

